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FIELDS Journal of Huddersfield student research

Foreword

Professor Tim Thornton

The topics covered in this volume demonstrate the breadth and contemporary relevance of work being undertaken by taught students at the University. The article published here engage with some of the most pressing issues facing today's society, from the influence of marketing and digital media on body image and self-perception to the lasting educational and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for university students and local communities.

The topics covered also address the profound challenges and opportunities created by rapid technological change. Research into copyright law and emerging technologies explores how legal systems are responding to innovation at a time when digital platforms, artificial intelligence and new forms of creative production are reshaping established ideas of ownership and intellectual property.

Alongside these socially and technologically focused studies are articles that demonstrate the enduring vitality of creative and cultural research. Investigations into architecture, cinema and video games examine how physical and imagined spaces shape human experience, identity and emotion. Whether analysing industrial alienation in David Lynch's *Eraserhead* through concepts of liminality and dérive or exploring narrative experience through architectural design in video games, these studies reveal how cultural texts and virtual environments continue to offer powerful lenses through which to understand modern life.

The articles collected in this volume also demonstrate the continuing momentum behind research by undergraduate and other taught-course students at the University of Huddersfield. It is a momentum sustained by the hard work of thousands of individual students, their supervisors and other supporters, and then by the team at the University of Huddersfield Press, ably led by the editors Lauren Coetzee and Anna Powell. The path-breaking work represented by the first volumes of Fields is now being widely emulated but other UK universities, but it is pleasing to see how, well into its second decade of activity, Fields continues to bring excellent pieces of research to the attention of a global audience.

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